for SCs and STs to the newly constituted National Commission for SCs and STs. The Commission has also proposed for creation of some additional posts.

(b) The whole issue is under examination.

Educational Institutions set up by Minority Community

374. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Minorities Commission in ts latest report has observed that the educational institutions established by minority communities were often not given recognition and that there were delays in sanctioning of funds etc.; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) and (b) In its successive Annual Reports the Minorities Commission has been observing that the educational institutions established by the minority communities are facing difficulties in the matter of their recognition and release of grants-in-aid by the State Governments. The action in this regard is to be taken by the State Governments. However, the Department of Education has circulated a set of guidelines to the State Governments for recognition of minority educational institutions.

Recasting of 15-Point Programme

375. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to recast the 15-Point programme for minorities;

(b) whether it is a fact that the recommendations of the Miniorities Commission are proposed to be included in the revised programme;

(c) if so, the recommendations that are likely to be included; and

(d) by when the revised programme is likely to be announced?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The matter is under examination.

Proposals for inclusion in the SC/ST Lists

376. SHRI NYODEK YONGGAM: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any SC and ST lists pending for President's assent; if so, their number and reasons for pendency; and

(b) the steps taken/being taken to clear them?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) No. Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Drug abuse in North-Eastern States and Rajasthan

377. DR. SANJAYA SINH: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that menace of drug abuse is acquiring dangerous proportions, especially in the North-Eastern States and Rajasthan;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what remedial steps Government have taken/propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) and (b) No survey has been conducted so far to know the exact number of drug addicts in the country. However, the problem in the North-Eastern States has become serious because of the in-

travenous use of drugs. In Rajasthan the problem of traditional use of Opium by the people is there.

(c) The Government through the help of voluntary Organisations has set up de-addiction, counselling and after care centres in all the States affected by drug abuse.

The House then adjourned at thirty minutes past eleven of the clock.

The House reassembled at one minute past twelve of the clock **Mr. Chairman** in the Chair.

ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

MR. CHAIRMAN: There are 20 Motions for the election of the Deputy Chairman. The Members who have given notices may now move their Motion one by one and in each case the Motion is to be seconded by a seconder thereof. Motion No. 1, Shri S. B. Chavan.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B CHAVAN): Sir, I beg to move the following Motion:

"That Dr. (Shrimati) Najma Heptulla be chosen as the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha."

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): Sir, I second the Motion.

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI (Karnataka): Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri G. Swaminathan. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: I am on a point of order. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I beg to move the following Motion:

"That Dr. (Shrimati) Najma Heptulla be chosen as the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya S abha."

श्री सुरेश पचौरी (मध्य प्रदेश) : मान्यवर, श्री जी० स्वामीनाथन द्वारा प्रस्तुत प्रस्ताव का समर्थन करता हूं ।

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, I beg to move the following Motion:

"That Dr. (Shrimati) Najma Heptulla be chosen as the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha."

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY (Pondicherry): Sir, I second the Motion.

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA (Karnataka): Sir, I beg to move the following Motion:

"That Dr. (Shrimati) Najma Heptulla be chosen as the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha."

SHRI HIPHEI (Mizoram): Sir, I second the Motion.

SHRI P. UPENDRA (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I beg to move the following Motion:

"That Dr. (Shrimati) Najma Heptulla be chosen as the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha."

SHRI DAVID LEDGER (Assam): Sir, I second the Motion.

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The election process has already started, there is no point of order. Shri Mentay Padmanabham.

SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I beg to move the following Motion:

"That Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury be chosen as the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha."

DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDy (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I second the Motion.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I beg to move the following Motion:

"That Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury be chosen at the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha."